

numeral 250 is corrected to 248 and number 269 is added.

Regarding Figs. 1 and 7, the stationary contacts 102, 103, 110 and 112 are shown consistently. Particularly, the contacts 110 and 112 are angled as is readily apparent. The contacts 102 and 103 are similarly angled although the portion that is angled is not visible in Fig. 1 being that it is a perspective view and the angled portion is below the portion receiving the screw.

By this amendment, the serial number for the applications referred to on the first page of the specification are added.

Claims 18, 22 and 31 are corrected in view of the objection thereto.

Claims 17, 20, 22 and 32 are corrected to provide proper antecedents where noted.

As such, the rejection of claim 17, 20-26 and 32-38 should be withdrawn.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 11 and 14 as obvious over Drexler et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,443,675 in view of Lacan U.S. Patent No. 3,324,270.

Claim 1, as amended, specifies a movable contact for use in a contact block assembly. The movable contact comprises a substantially flat body portion extending from a first end to a second end. A first contact portion is coupled to the first end of the substantially flat body portion. The first contact portion has a first pair of contact fingers. Each contact finger of the first pair of contact fingers has an inclined portion leading to a contact surface which is substantially parallel to and facing away from the plane of the substantially flat body portion. The second contact portion is coupled to the second end of the substantially flat body portion. The second contact portion has a second pair of contact fingers. Each contact finger of the second pair of contact fingers has an

inclined portion leading to a contact surface which is substantially parallel to and facing away from a plane of the substantially flat body portion.

The cited references, as combined, do not disclose or suggest an inclined portion of a movable contact leading to a contact surface which is substantially parallel to and facing away from a plane of a substantially flat body portion.

Drexler et al. is cited for disclosing an inclined portion leading to a contact surface parallel to a substantially flat body portion. However, the contact surface faces toward a plane of the substantially flat body portion. Lacan discloses a pair of contact fingers on a substantially flat body portion. Therefore, it does not disclose the deficiencies noted with respect to Drexler. By having the contact surface facing away from a plane of the substantially flat body portion, greater contact arrangements are possible. For example, the contact can be mounted with another contact in a back to back configuration. Such an arrangement is not disclosed or suggested in either of the cited references. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 5 are not obvious and the rejection is improper.

Independent claim 6 specifies a pusher assembly for use in a contact block assembly comprising an elongate housing portion and a window formed transversely through the housing portion. A moveable contact is positioned within the window.

Neither of the cited references discloses or suggests a pusher assembly with an elongate housing portion and a window formed transversely through the housing portion.

In the action, the examiner indicates that Drexler et al. discloses a housing with a

window. It is not apparent that any window is provided in element 8 of Drexler et al. In any event, there clearly is no elongate housing portion with a window formed transversely through the housing portion. The deficiencies are not present in Lacan. Therefore, no combination of the references results in the claimed invention. Claim 6 and its dependent claims 7 and 10 are not obvious.

Claim 11 specifies a pusher assembly for use in a contact block assembly comprising a pusher and first and second movable contacts each having a substantially flat body portion and pairs of contact fingers each having an inclined portion and a contact surface. The substantially flat body portions of the first and second movable contacts are positioned back to back.

Neither of these references discloses first and second movable contact adjacent to one another within a pusher with substantially flat body portions being positioned back to back. Drexler et al. discloses multiple movable contacts physically spaced from one another. In fact, the contacts could not be mounted with their substantially flat portions back to back as this would result in the contact pads very close to one another sandwiching a fixed contact. Such a construction is believed impractical and is clearly not contemplated by Drexler et al. For these reasons, claim 11 and its dependent claim 14 are not obvious.

For the above reasons, claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 11 and 14 are allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12 and 13 as obvious over Drexler et al. and Lacan and further in view of Hall et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,114,639.

These claims depend from independent claims 1, 6 and 11 discussed above. Hall et

al. does not disclose or suggest the deficiencies noted with respect to Drexler et al. and Lacan. Therefore, claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12 and 13 are not obvious and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 15 as anticipated by Nielsen et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,505,625.

Claim 15, as amended, specifies a pusher assembly for use in a contact block assembly. The pusher assembly comprises a pusher and a window extending through the pusher. A first movable contact is positioned within the window. A second moveable contact is positioned back to back with the first moveable contact within the window.

Nielsen et al. do not disclose or suggest a window extending through a pusher with first and second moveable contacts positioned back to back within the window. Instead, Nielsen et al. discloses movable contacts spaced apart within a contact carrier. Because Nielsen et al. do not disclose each and every element of the claim, arranged as in the claim, there is no anticipation. Moreover, any obviousness rejection would be improper as the moveable contacts would not operate as intended if they were mounted back to back.

For the above reasons, claim 15 is believed allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 16 and 17 as obvious over Nielsen et al. in view of Lacan. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15. The deficiencies with respect to Nielsen et al. are noted above. Lacan does not disclose or suggest the deficiencies. Therefore, no combination results in the claimed invention nor would the claimed invention be obvious therefrom.

For the above reasons, claims 16 and 17 are believed allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 18 as obvious over Nielsen et al. and Hall et al. Claim 18 depends from claim 15. The deficiencies with respect to Nielsen et al. are noted above. Hall et al. do not disclose or suggest these deficiencies. Therefore, the combination does not result in the claimed invention. Nor is the claimed invention obvious.

For the above reasons, claim 18 is believed allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 15 and 19-21 as anticipated by Mading U.S. Patent No. 3,436,497.

Claim 15 is discussed above. Mading does not disclose or suggest first and second movable contacts back to back within a window of a pusher. Instead, Mading discloses first and second movable contacts spaced apart from one another. The device would not operate if the movable contacts were back to back.

Because Mading does not disclose each and every element of claim 15, arranged as in the claim, there is no anticipation and the rejection is improper. Moreover, because Mading does not suggest movable contacts being mounted back to back, any obviousness rejection would also be improper.

For the above reasons, claims 15 and dependent claims 19-21 are believed allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 27 and 31 as anticipated by Nielsen et al

Claim 27 specifies a method of assembling a pusher assembly having a movable contact. The method comprises inserting a first movable contact into a pusher, inserting a second movable contact into the pusher and retaining the first movable contact and the second movable contact back to back within the pusher by a spring.

Nielsen et al. do not disclose or suggest such a method. Particularly, a first and second movable contact are not retained back to back within a pusher by a spring. Instead, a spring maintains first and second movable contacts in spaced apart relationship.

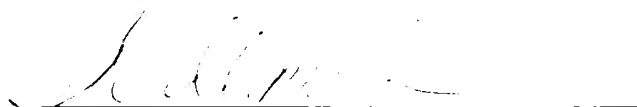
Because Nielsen et al. do not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 27, or dependent claim 31, there is no anticipation and the rejection is improper. Moreover, Nielsen et al. do not suggest mounting contacts back to back as doing so would render the device inoperative. Therefore, any obviousness rejection would also be improper.

For the above reasons, claims 27 and 31 are believed allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant notes the allowability of claims 28-30. Claims 28 and 29 are rewritten in independent form so that they along with dependent claim 30 should now be allowed.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance and passage to issue are requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Marked up version

Cross-Reference to Related Patent Applications

The present U.S. patent application having at least one common inventor as

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 09/961,155 entitled "System and Method for Auxiliary Contact Assembly" [(2001P17284US)], and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 09/961,159 entitled "System and Method for Auxiliary Contact Assembly and Snap Mounting" [(2001P17283US)], and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 09/961,162 entitled "System and Method for Mounting a Pusher and Moveable Contact in a Contact Block" [(2001P17288US)], and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 09/961,156 entitled "System and Method for Mounting a Moveable Contact in a Contact Block" [(2001P17289US)], and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 09/961,158 entitled "Contact Block Assembly and Method of Assembling a Contact Block Assembly" [(2001P17279US)], and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [_____] 09/961,161 entitled "Pusher Assembly and Method of Assembling a Pusher Assembly [2001P17280)],

which are filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office concurrently on September 21, 2001, the entirety of each being incorporated herein by reference.

In the Claims

1. (Amended) A movable contact for use in a contact block assembly, said movable contact comprising:

a substantially flat body portion extending from a first end to a second end,

a first contact portion coupled to said first end of said substantially flat body portion, said first contact portion having a first pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said first pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion leading to a contact surface which is substantially parallel to and facing away from a plane of said substantially flat body portion; and

a second contact portion coupled to said second end of said substantially flat body portion, said second contact portion having a second pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said second pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion leading to a contact surface which is substantially parallel to and facing away from a plane of said substantially flat body portion.

6. (Amended) A pusher assembly for use in a contact block assembly comprising:

an elongate [a] housing portion;

a window formed transversely through [in] said housing portion; and

a movable contact positioned within said window, said movable contact

comprising:

a substantially flat body portion extending from a first end to a second end,

a first contact portion coupled to said first end of said body portion, said first contact portion having a first pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said first pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion and a contact element; and

a second contact portion coupled to said second end of said body portion, said second contact portion having a second pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said second pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion and a contact element.

11. (Amended) A pusher assembly for use in a contact block assembly

comprising:

a pusher;

a first movable contact positioned within said pusher and having a substantially flat body portion extending from a first end to a second end, a first contact portion coupled to said first end of said body portion, said first contact portion having a first pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said first pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion and a contact surface, and a second contact portion coupled to said second end of said body portion, said second contact portion having a second pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said second pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion and a contact surface, and;

a second movable contact adjacent said first movable contact within said pusher, said second movable contact having a substantially flat body portion extending from a first end to a second end, a third contact portion coupled to said first end of said substantially flat body portion, said third contact portion having a third pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said third pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion and a contact surface; and a second contact portion coupled to said second end of said substantially flat body portion, said second contact portion having a fourth pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said fourth pair of contact fingers having an inclined portion and a contact surface, the substantially flat body portions of the first and second movable contacts being positioned back to back.

15. (Amended) A pusher assembly for use in a contact block assembly, said pusher assembly comprising:

a pusher;

a window extending through said pusher [portion];

a first movable contact positioned within said window; and

a second movable contact positioned [adjacent to] back to back with said first movable contact within said window.

17. (Amended) The pusher assembly of claim [15] 16 wherein said second movable contact has a substantially flat body portion extending from a first end to a second end, a first contact portion coupled to said first end of said substantially flat body portion, said first contact portion having a first pair of contact fingers; and a second contact portion coupled to said second end of said substantially flat body portion, said second contact portion having a second pair of contact fingers, each contact finger of said first and second pairs of contact fingers having an inclined portion and a contact surface, said second movable contact being positioned opposite said first movable contact with said substantially flat body portion of said first movable contact adjacent to said substantially flat body portion of said second movable contact.

18. (Amended) The pusher assembly of claim 15 wherein said first movable contact has a first pair of flanges and second movable contact has a second pair of flanges for retaining said first and said second movable contacts [and said second] within said window.

20. (Amended) The pusher assembly of claim [15] 19 wherein said first window and said second window are formed in a first portion of said body portion.

22. (Amended) The pusher assembly of claim 21 wherein said [a] recess formed in said first portion of said body portion further extends to a second portion of said body portion.

27. (Amended) A method of assembling a pusher assembly having a movable contact, said method comprising:

inserting a first movable contact into a pusher;

inserting a second movable contact into said pusher;

retaining said first movable contact and said second movable contact back to back within said pusher by a spring.

28. (Rewritten) A method of assembling a pusher assembly having a movable contact, said method comprising:

inserting a first movable contact into a pusher;

inserting a second movable contact into said pusher;

retaining said first movable contact and said second movable contact within said pusher by a spring, [The method of claim 27] wherein said steps of inserting said first movable contact and said second movable contacts are performed simultaneously.

29. (Rewritten) [The method of claim 27 further comprising a step of] A method of assembling a pusher assembly having a movable contact, said method comprising:

inserting a first movable contact into a pusher;

inserting a second movable contact into said pusher;

rotating said first and second movable contacts to a substantially horizontal position;

and

retaining said first movable contact and said second movable contact within said
pusher by a spring.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein said step of retaining comprises retaining said first and second movable contacts against a shoulder of [said second] a window.

32. (Amended) A method for assembling a pusher assembly, said method comprising the steps of :

inserting a first movable contact and a second movable contact into a first position in a first window of a pusher;

moving said first movable contact and said second movable contact to a second window of said pusher;

rotating first movable contact and said second movable contact to a second position within said second window; and

positioning said first movable contact and said second movable contact, defining a
pair of movable contacts, adjacent to each other.